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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 7500
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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEPADJ/CJTF HOA PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 002471

SIPDIS

IO/RHS FOR REBECCA JOVIN
DRL/MLGA FOR LYNN SICADE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2018

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#) [ET](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: (C) ETHIOPIA WILL NOT SUPPORT ZIMBABWE HUMAN
RIGHTS RESOLUTION IN UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 93981

Classified By: DCM Deborah R. Malac for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

¶1. (C) PolOffs raised reftel points with Abebaw Feleke, Acting Director of UN Main Organs, and Tesfaye Yilma, Director General for Europe and the Americas, in the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry on September 4. Neither official disclosed the Ethiopian Government's (GoE) likely response on the questions of human rights resolutions on Iran, North Korea, or Burma, on no action votes, or on defamation of religions votes expected in the UNGA Third Committee. Tesfaye Yilma did confirm to PolChief that Ethiopia would not support a Third Committee human rights resolution on Zimbabwe.

¶2. (C) While Yilma did acknowledge that Ethiopia does not think President Mugabe is a "good guy," he strongly argued Ethiopia's position that the on-going effort led by South African President Mbeki to reach an agreement between ZANU-PF and MDC remains the only option available and should not be undercut by a Third Committee resolution. Yilma made no specific reference to the Africa Group.

¶3. (C) Interestingly, Yilma noted that he had heard Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi argue that if he were Mugabe he would let the MDC take power "because the government cannot get over 100,000 percent inflation under control, and the opportunity would allow the opposition to prove their inability to govern, hence securing a ZANU-PF win in the next elections."

YAMAMOTO